

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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APRIL 22. OBSERVATEUR DU MOYEN ORIENT ET DE L'AFRIQUE (BELIEVED CLOSE TO ISRAELI GOVT) REPORTS US-JORDANIAN STARFIGHTER TRANS-ACTION AND QUOTES ITS PARIS CORRESPONDENT TO EFFECT FRENCH REACTION "PHILOSOPHICAL" AND FRENCH "EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS" AMERICAN SALE; BRITISH AND EGYPTIANS ON OTHER HAND "FURIOUS". FRENCH SOURCES QUOTED AS STATING JORDAN TO RECEIVE 36 STARFIGHTERS; 12 IMMEDIATELY AND FREE OF CHARGE, BALANCE INCLUDING 4 TRAINERS TO BE SUPPLIED FROM PRODUCTION AGAINST PAYMENT. ARTICLE ADDS THAT FRENCH, WITH WHOM KING HUSSEIN HAD

DISCUSSED MIRAGE SALE, LEARNED OF STARFIGHTER DEAL "INDIRECTLY" ASKING HUSSEIN HAD NOT DEEMED IT NECESSARY INFORM THEM OR BRITISH OF HIS PREFERENCE FOR AMERICAN AIRCRAFT.

COMMENT: WHILE ARTICLE ATTEMPTS EXPLOIT DEVELOPMENT FOR ISRAELI PURPOSE (I.E. ALLEGED UAR, UK AND FRANCO-JORDANIAN STRAIN), DESCRIPTION FRENCH PHILOSOPHICAL REACTION PROBABLY ACCURATE REPRESENTATION LINE TAKEN BY GOF IN RESPONSE PRESS QUERIES.

BOHLEN

BT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *2/1/04*

RDS *[Signature]* EXT *[Signature]* DATE *2/1/04*

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